



Utah Department of Corrections

*Presentation to Law Enforcement
&
Criminal Justice Interim Committee*

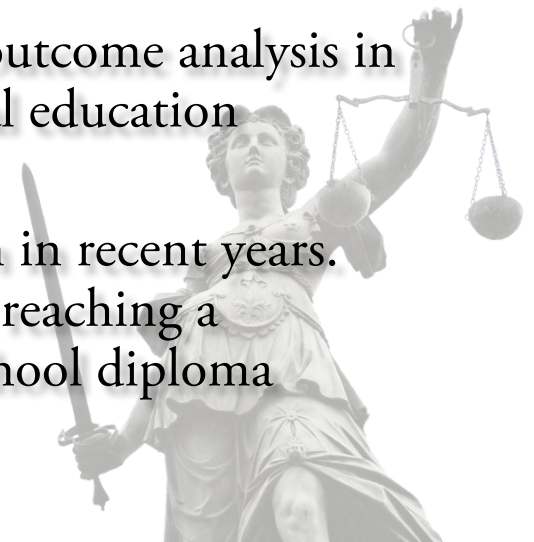
Inmate Education

November 15, 2017

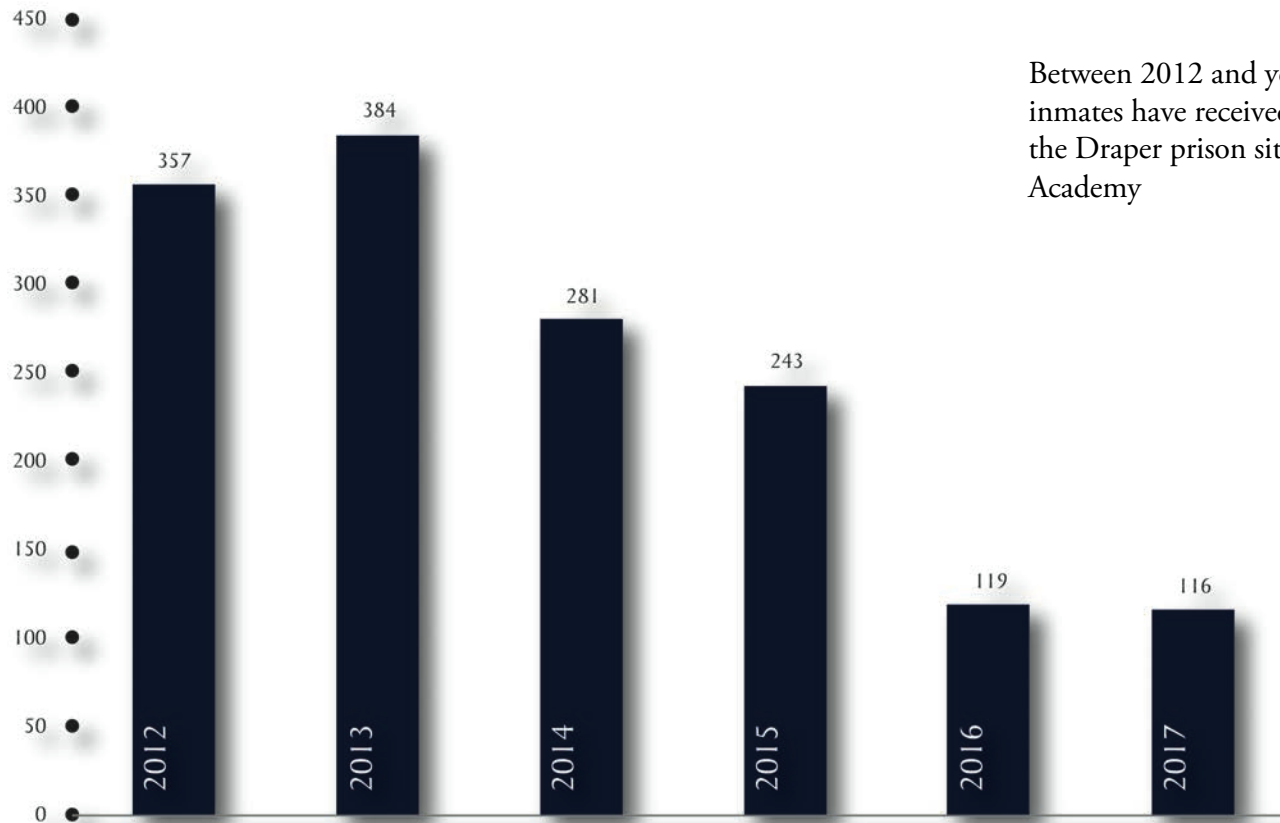


Inmate Education

- In terms of inmate education, the Department of Corrections primarily focuses on high school and technical education programs provided through the State's Applied Technology Colleges.
- Data is provided on high school graduations, but the outcome analysis in this presentation focuses on inmates receiving technical education
- You will see high school graduation numbers are down in recent years. This is due both to shorter sentence lengths, as well as reaching a saturation point in terms of inmates needing a high school diploma



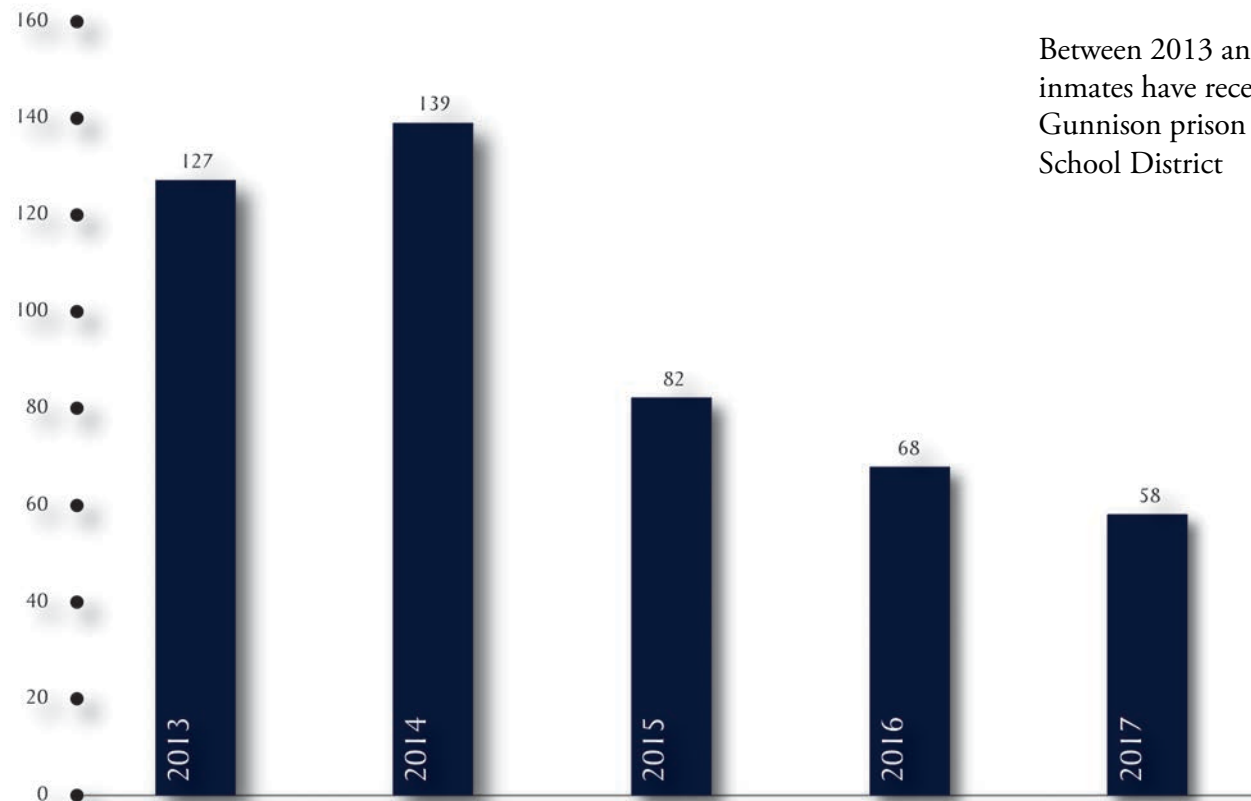
Draper Prison, High School Graduates



Between 2012 and year-to-date 2017, a total of 1,500 inmates have received their high school diplomas from the Draper prison site, served by the South Park Academy



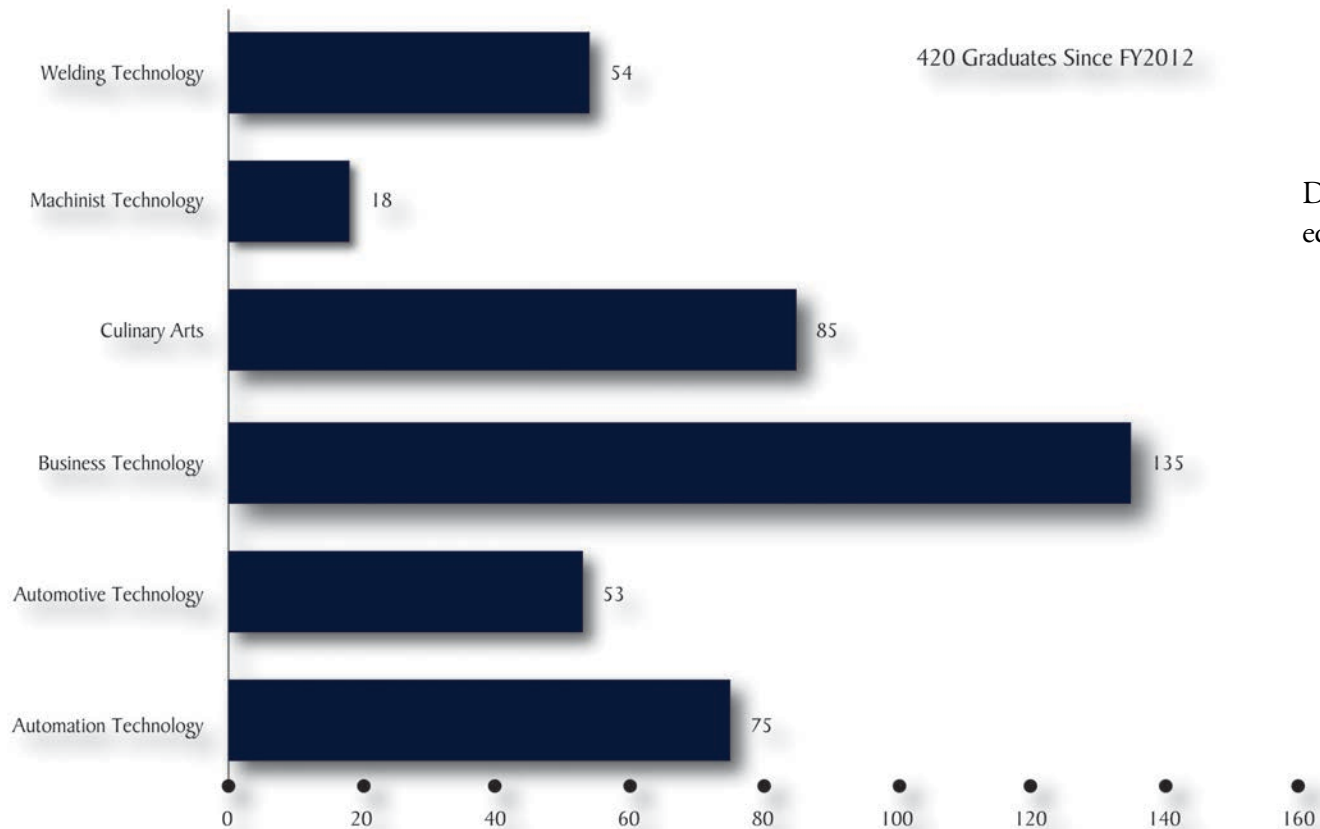
Gunnison Prison, High School Graduates



Between 2013 and year-to-date 2017, a total of 474 inmates have received their high school diplomas at the Gunnison prison site, served by the South Sanpete School District



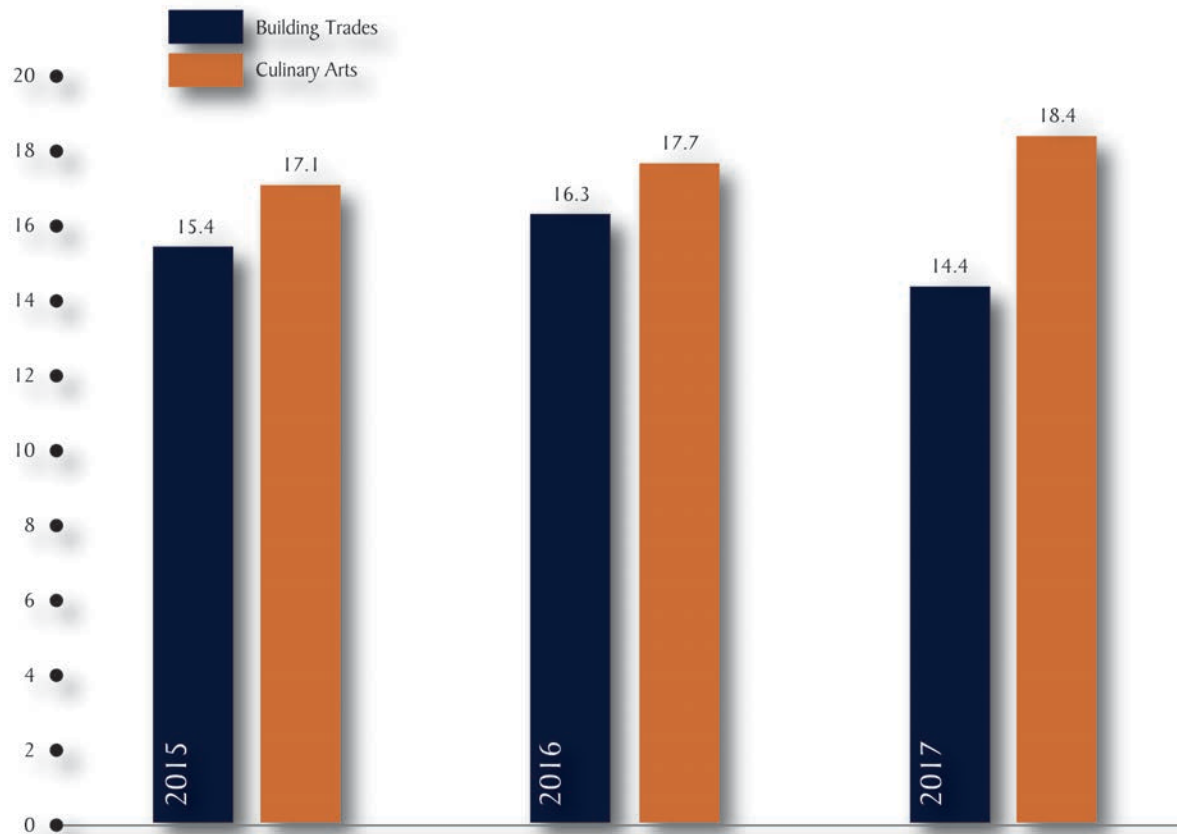
Davis Technical College Graduates



Davis Technical College provides technical education at the Draper prison site.



Snow College Technical Certificate Participation



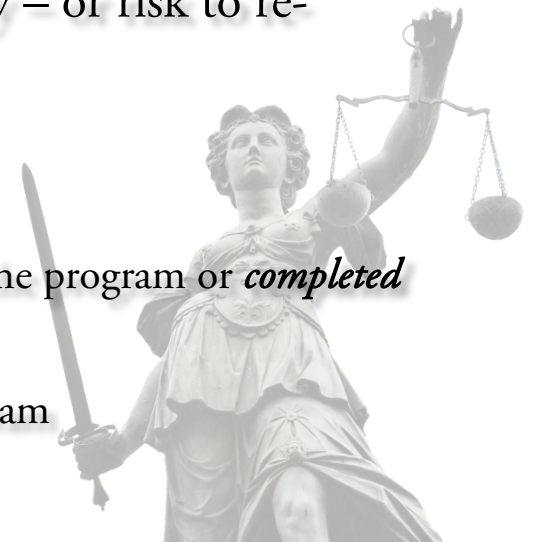
Snow College provides technical education in Building Trades and Culinary Arts at the Gunnison prison site.

Between these two programs, there is an average of just over 30 students enrolled in these programs combined at any given time.



Evaluating Outcomes

- A quasi-experimental design was used to look at outcomes for inmates participating in technical education and a control group that did not participate in any technical education programs.
- The variables controlled for in the analysis included age, severity of offense, prison security level, LSI scores (Level of Services Inventory – or risk to re-offend), prior felonies and prior incarcerations.
- Two analyses were completed
 - The first included inmates who either gained *competency* within the program or *completed* the program
 - The second included only those inmates who *completed* the program



Outcomes for Inmates Demonstrating Competency or Completing the Program

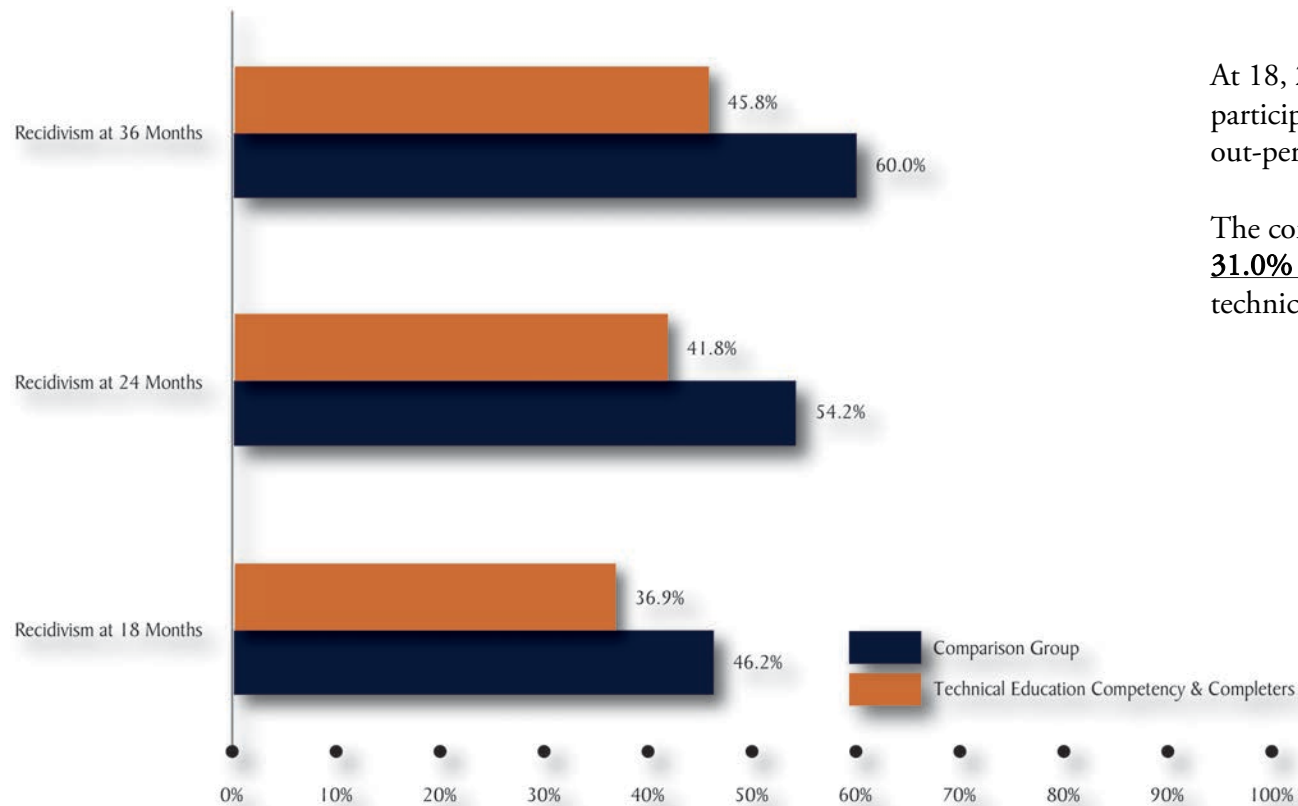
The variables controlled for are those characteristics that might drive or explain why we would see differences between the control and experimental groups — other than by engaging in technical education.

As you can see, through a good matching process, the control and experimental groups were nearly identical on these control variables.

Variable	Control Average	Experimental Average
Age	35.7	35.8
Severity of Offense	3.1	3.2
Security Level	4.3	4.4
LSI Score	23.9	24.2
Prior Felonies	1.3	1.1
Prior Incarcerations	1.0	1.0



Outcomes for Inmates Demonstrating Competency or Completing the Program



At 18, 24 and 36 months, the inmates that participated in technical education programs out-performed those that did not.

The comparison group recidivism rate is **31.0% higher at 36 months** than the technical education completers/competency.



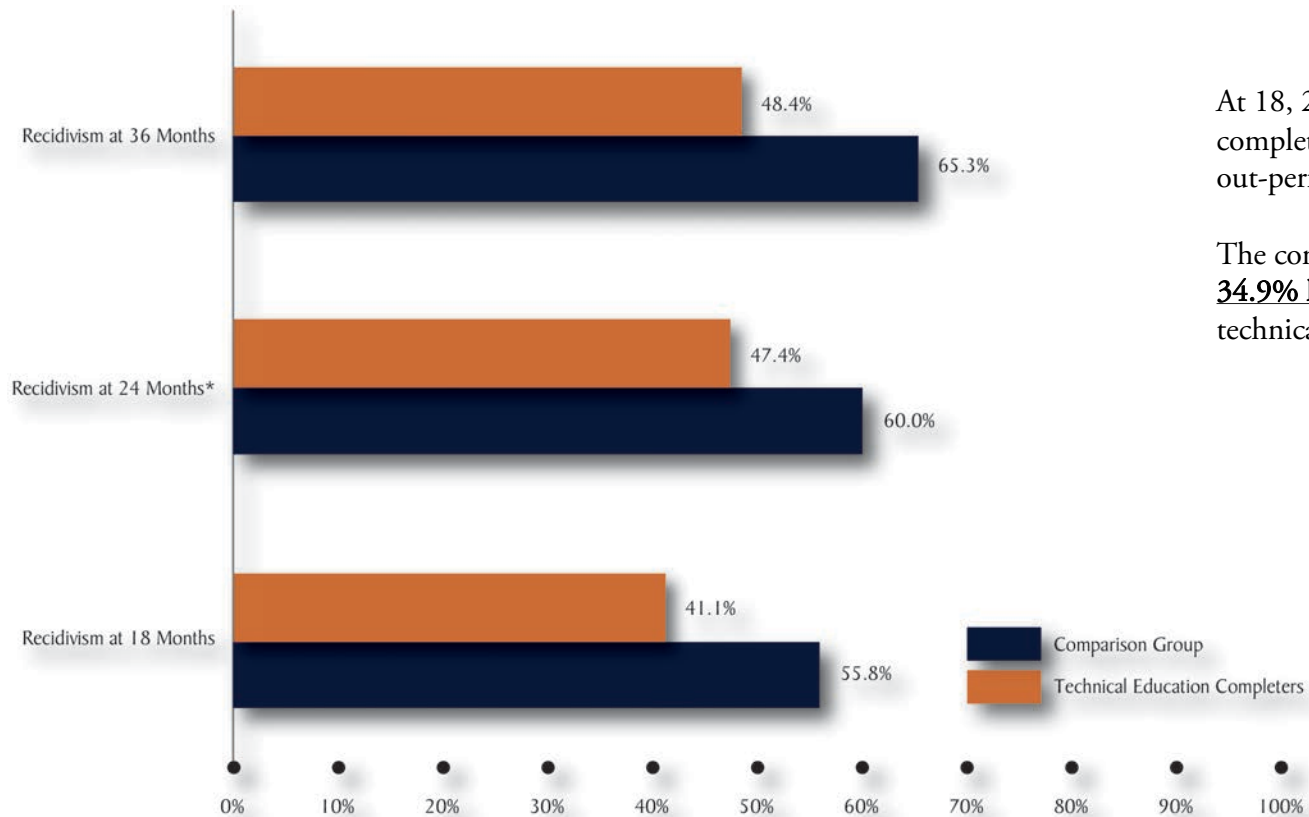
Outcomes for Inmates *Completing* the Program

Once again, we see the control and experimental groups were nearly identical on these control variables.

Variable	Control Average	Experimental Average
Age	34.7	35.8
Severity of Offense	3.3	3.3
Security Level	4.4	4.4
LSI Score	26.3	26.0
Prior Felonies	1.7	1.4
Prior Incarcerations	1.3	1.1



Outcomes for Inmates *Completing* the Program



* Did not reach 0.05 significance level

At 18, 24 and 36 months, the inmates that completed technical education programs out-performed those that did not.

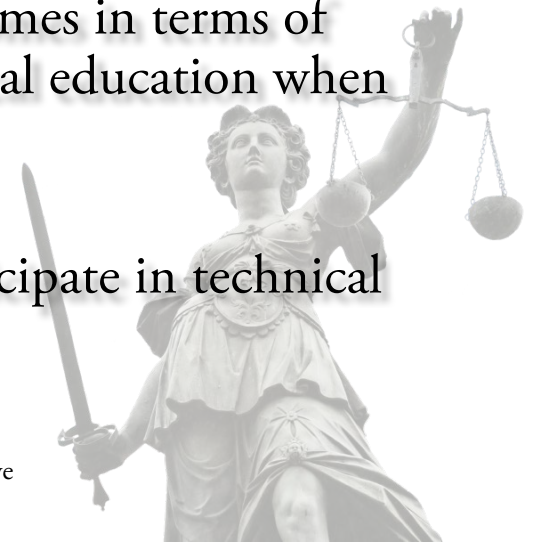
The comparison group recidivism rate is 34.9% higher at 36 months than the technical education completers.



Conclusion

- The findings in Utah are not unique. According to RAND study, inmates that participate in correctional education programs had a 43% lower recidivism rate than those that did not — and the odds of obtaining employment post-release was 13% higher.
- Here in Utah, it does appear there are improved outcomes in terms of recidivism for those inmates that participate in technical education when compared with inmates that do not participate.
- Stable recidivism at 36 months among those that participate in technical education is a very promising result.

RAND, “How Effective is Correctional Education, and Where Do We Go from Here?, the Results of a Comprehensive Evaluation,” 2014





Questions